

I want to emphasize it at this point because it may have gone unnoticed.

Amendment No. 8 which we passed, on the other hand, if you interpret the words "by law" as used there in the way that Delegate Wheatley has interpreted them, would indicate that the local governmental units, the counties, could in their structures of government enact laws relating to the composition of school boards. At least, this is what I understood Delegate Wheatley to say.

I think if he does not mean this, then possibly he should correct the record. In any event, I hope that Amendment No. 5 passes and that we delete all reference to the local board in the constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Wheatley.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the convention, in regard to Delegate Moser's and my statement "by law" as the Committee adopted it, it referred to everything from constitutional law to statutory of general law down to local laws, so each would be regulated according to the prohibitions or restrictions that were placed on both.

More specifically, I cannot agree more with the statement made by Delegate Claggett that we do not want to freeze in a system, and so for that particular reason we did not use the words county school system, but rather used the words local school system in the lower case, indicating complete flexibility as the occasion may arise from time to time.

I am also in agreement with Delegate Key when she made some comments concerning the desirability of having a flexible system that could be changed from time to time. The provision here balances out the state board which we recognize, and again, I cannot say that too strongly, creates the balance between state and local education. It is a delicate balance and only those who are familiar with it can appreciate it.

Then, the provisions we have in section 5, as amended, state the structure and allow the programs and flexibility that may be necessary from time to time. I cannot emphasize too strongly that the local boards are not something new. The structure has been there. If we are saying it is bad, let us get rid of it, let us not play around. If it has been good, let us acknowledge it.

Let us not be led down the road of being too specific and too detailed. I submit that there are many, many places along the way where we can make this criticism, but that is the only allegation we can make against it.

I would suggest again, and I emphasize this, that this can be a recognition of a status that has long existed hammered out over the years in many, many instances, and it is a question of putting politics in the school board. I want the politicians, and I profess to be one of them, to supply the money, but I do not want them to make decisions within the school board. I do not want the educators in the school systems to make the policy in the schools. This is the balance to which I refer on the local level, a lay school board that makes these decisions free from political decisions or educators' decisions.

If we are not willing to stand up for this principle, then I think we are witnessing a battle that could last for another one hundred years, and with that, Mr. Chairman, I urge you to defeat this amendment and vote for the Majority Report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sollins.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: There is just one point I want to point out to the Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is just one minute left of controlled time.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: I will not be any longer than that. There is present in this State a committee charged with studying the public school laws. It is composed of educators and other interested citizens. I am aware of no request by this committee to this Convention or to the General Provisions Committee to do anything along the lines suggested by the Majority Report. It is very obvious that they are content that this remain in the statute. I urge that that is where it stay. I urge support of Amendment No. 5.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

For what purpose does Delegate Lord rise?

DELEGATE LORD: Could you find me one minute?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Lord, your time has expired. I am advised that you have thirty seconds.

DELEGATE LORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.